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Season's Greetings Section Inside

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Christmas shopping spree

Students from Archie Stouffer Elementary School were thrilled to pick out the perfect gifts for their friends and relatives at their annual Christmas Market. Items were provided from the community. Haliburton Huskies wrapped gifts for students later in the day. /THOMAS SMITH Staff

Council douses fireworks use except on Canada Day

by **JAMES MATTHEWS**
Times Staff

Fireworks will soon be restricted in Algonquin Highlands to only Canada Day.

Council launched a survey in July to gauge the public's feelings about the use of fireworks. It generated 520 responses from the public. The survey was extended until October and drew another 170 responses.

"An excellent response to that survey," said Melissa Murray, the township's environmental manager. "That's a lot of responses considering the size of our municipality."

She said many comments were garnered about the issue of fireworks.

"Some of which (comments) you don't know whether to laugh or cry," said Mayor Liz Danielsen. "There was a lot of comments."

Deputy Mayor Jennifer Dailloux said the survey wasn't a salvo in an effort toward

see COMPLETE page 2

Kilcoo sexual assault resolved in settlement

by EMILY STONEHOUSE
Times Staff

A settlement has been found between former Kilcoo Camp director David Latimer and J. Doe #1 and J. Doe #2, who, in late July of 2023, brought forward sexual assault allegations against the director.

As of Dec. 12, 2024, the lawsuit has been resolved by mutual agreement of the parties.

The well-known director, who spent his career at Kilcoo Camp in Minden, was accused of sexual misconduct that arose in the 1990s and early 2000s. Two cases were put forward in the summer of 2023, with the plaintiffs identified as J. Doe # 1 and J. Doe # 2. Due to the ages of the plaintiffs at the time of the alleged incidents, both cases received a sealing and non-publication order on their names.

"Over time and throughout their young adulthood, the effects of the psychological trauma inflicted by Latimer's sexual assault intensified," reads the claim brought against Latimer on July 27, 2023.

Latimer had been the director of Kilcoo since 1985, as well as the director of community life at Greenwood College School in Toronto, where he left in 2023 following rumours that he violated boundaries with a number of minor students at the facility.

The former camp director denied all sexual misconduct allegations included in the lawsuits, and none of the allegations brought forward in the claims were tested in court.

At this time, no details of the settlement have been shared, but Kilcoo Camp has released a formal statement on their website, as well as a sexual harassment and abuse policy, and an anti-bullying policy.

The message also reminded the public that Latimer stepped down as camp director in light of the allegations, and has since been replaced by Patrick Tingley. "David Latimer will not be involved in Kilcoo Camp in the future," reads the statement.

"The camp and all involved have learned from, and are grateful for the frank and positive discussions that have led to this outcome," the public notice said. "Kilcoo remains committed to ensuring that staff, campers, and all those who spend time at Kilcoo in the future have a fulfilling and safe experience."

At this time, the parties to the litigation have no further comment.

Tax break implemented smoothly in Minden

by THOMAS SMITH
Editor

On Dec. 12, legislation was passed to enact the Goods and Services/Harmonized Sales Tax (GST/HST) break was passed by the Government of Canada. This tax break began on Dec. 14 and will continue until Feb. 15, 2025.

According to the Government of Canada, this tax break is for specific "qualifying daily necessities as well as items that bring joy to the season," including:

Children's clothing, children's footwear, children's diapers, children's car seats, select children's toys, jigsaw puzzles, video game consoles, controllers, and physical video games, physical books, printed newspapers, Christmas and similar decorative trees, and most food and beverages and related services.

Shoppers should automatically receive these tax breaks when making their purchase.

At Pet Tyme-Animal Krackers, owner Susan Andreson says that she sells Breyer animals which fall under the category of children's toys. Luckily, her register has extra buttons that she programmed to take away the tax for the tax break.

Pharmasave employee Ida Schultz says that Pharmasave has had "no problems whatsoever," with implement the tax break. The Pharmasave owner was quick to implement the tax break on applicable inventory. Testing their system, Schultz showed that the price of a jigsaw puzzle was the same price displayed on the counter. Schultz says that little to no customers have mentioned the tax break and they have not noticed a surge in sales associated with the tax break. Schultz reported that prices of items receiving a tax break were not changed preemptively.

At Stedman's in Minden, the employees have not had any issues with their system as the owner had pre-programmed their system with the updated tax break. Employees of Stedman's reported that some customers have asked the cashier if they had received the 'discount' of the tax break. They have not seen increased sales in goods included in the implemented tax break.

This tax break is not just for consumers. This tax break is applied at every stage of the supply chain, from manufacturer to wholesaler, wholesaler to retailer, and then retailer to consumer.

Some customers have expressed confusion with the tax break. While children's toys are listed, toys such as Lego must be listed as ages 14 and under to receive the break. Despite this age distinction with toys, all physical video games receive the tax break regardless of age rating.

Several local residents say that they have noticed a small difference in their grocery bill and feel that the tax break should be implemented indefinitely towards necessary things such as food.

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Majority of respondents support firework ban

from page 1

a referendum on the fireworks' use in the township. However, she said she'd like to support the will of the people as indicated by the majority of survey respondents.

And that was a complete ban on fireworks.

About 61 per cent of respondent were in favour of prohibiting their use.

"And I'll voice that majority at the (council) table," Dailloux said.

"I'd like to see it (fireworks) just for Canada Day," said Councillor Julia Shortreed. "It's a pretty popular day."

"I'm satisfied with a complete ban other than commercial or local associations, organizations applying for a permit to hold a special event," said Coun. Sabrina Richards.

Both Coun. Lisa Barry and Danielsen agreed with Richards' suggestion.

"Accepting that there's just over 60 per cent that are saying a complete ban, having read every single comment there, a complete and total ban I'm not ready for," Danielsen said.

Allowing organized events for which a permit has been issued and Canada Day celebrations is fair, the mayor said.

Shortreed asked if such permits could be applied to any day. Right now, there's a restriction for only long weekends.

"Are we still sticking with those long weekends or are we just going with Canada Day?" she said.

Richards said that all weekends should be opened up if there's a permit process for organizations and groups.

"I think most will do it to a specific holiday or event anyway," Richards said. "I think the only major concern is the migratory bird season. Outside of that, I don't think we need to limit it too much."

"I do agree that we need to absolutely have a ban during that period," Danielsen said.

Richards suggested the local fire department would be the best municipal entity to issue permits and to ensure safety measures are in place.

Danielsen said she is concerned about the township's ability to enforce a requirement to have a permit for fireworks.

"That was one of the things that kept being repeated (in the survey)," she said. "You can't enforce what you've got now. How are you going to enforce this. It's a very, very difficult thing to enforce if, in fact, we've got somebody available to respond, are they going to get there in time?"

Bylaw violators will argue it wasn't them if the enforcement officer arrives after the fireworks have been launched.

> "The environmental concerns are possibly gravest during the spring period when you have nesting birds and migrating birds.
>
> — DEPUTY MAYOR JENNIFER DAILLOUX

"I think we need to give some thought about how we're going to deal with that," Danielsen said.

She suggested council consult should consult with the bylaw enforcement crowd and the fire department before a final decision is made about fireworks.

Dailloux said a fireworks restriction to only Canada Day makes the regulations clearer and simplified.

"The environmental concerns are possibly gravest during the spring period when you have nesting birds and migrating birds," Dailloux said. "But there are concerns beyond that, including the chemicals that you're putting up in the air that falling into the lakes."

If an all-out ban isn't in the cards, the environment and wildlife would be better served by restricting fireworks to organized Canada Day events, she said.

Prohibiting fireworks on New Year's Day and Victoria Day is pushing the activity's regulation far enough, said Richards.

"If council is leaning towards Canada Day, I would recommend to have a permit system for just Canada Day," said Angie Bird, the township's CAO.

Council decided to ask staff to submit an amended bylaw that limits fireworks to only Canada Day.

Creative Devotions donate satchels to Youth Hub

by **EMILY STONEHOUSE**
Times Staff

It's the time of year for magic and kindness, and that's something that's clear during St. George's Anglican Church's annual St. Nick's Satchel Campaign.

For the past eight years, the "Creative Devotions", a sewing group that is a part of the church, gathers together to create Christmas satchels - sweetly created little bags - which are filled with goodies for older kids, and donated directly to the Youth Hub in Haliburton.

"We saw a need there," said Louise Sisson, the People's Warden from St. George's Anglican Church. "It was something that was started by Reverend Ken McClure. He was very much a storyteller, and loved the story of St. Nick."

The legend of St. Nick started around 350 AD, with a Greek Orthodox bishop named Nicholas, who heard that a local townsman was struggling, and had to sell his three beautiful daughters as a result. Nicholas went to the man's home late one evening, and threw a small satchel of gold into a window. The gold was enough to save the man and his daughters from poverty.

The story has been woven and evolved into the background for the modern-day Santa Claus; a regular gift giver and bringer of joy.

Each year, the Creative Devotions of St. George's put together 50 small satchels for youth in the community, and include three gift cards, an orange, and some treats inside the colourful bags. They are then donated to Point in Time's Youth Hub in Haliburton, where Mary Sisson, the Hub manager, disperses them to individuals in need.

The Youth Hub is "a one stop shop for youth aged 12 to 25," shared Mary. "It is an inclusive, positive and welcoming space where youth can access a broad range of services and supports delivered in a respectful and inclusive fashion."

The space offers drop-in programming, skills and wellbeing activities, tutoring, support around mental health, substance use and addictions, housing, sexual health, and employment, to name a few offerings. They also provide transportation for trips, recreation, and services across the county.

Last year, the Youth Hub served 215 individual youth for formal services, with 1945 visits for skills and wellbeing activities. This fiscal year, from April until now, the Hub has seen 1932 visits for activities, and is supporting roughly 47 youth with food security support.

Hub manager Mary Sisson shared that the satchels provided by St. George's are a bright spot for many of the youth in the community, particularly as that age range is often overlooked during many holiday campaigns. "For older youth who may be on their own, or don't have a connection to family, to get this gift is so special," she said. "We are just so grateful for this partnership over the past few years."

Louise Sisson is proud of the hard work that the church has done for the community hub, and shows no signs of slowing down when it comes to supporting the youth. "The hub looks after them," she said. "It gives them a place to go after school, a place to listen to music, play games, and be a safe space. It's just such an awesome place to have in our community."

The Haliburton County Youth Wellness Hub is located at 12 Dysart Avenue. More information can be found at www.youthhubs.ca.

Mary Sisson, left, and Louise Sisson, with the satchels that were handmade to give out to the youth of the community. /Photo submitted

www.mindenhills.ca

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NOTICE OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETINGS – 2025 BUDGET

The Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills is preparing its 2025 Municipal Budget. Council commenced its overview of the Draft Budget at the November 21, 2024, Special Meeting. Council will continue to consider the budget at several upcoming special meetings. The Adoption of the Water and Wastewater rates will be considered at the January 14, 2025, meeting. Please note that dates are subject to change and are dependent on deliberation and direction. For complete details, visit our website.

- **Tuesday, January 14, 2025:** Operating and Capital Budget review for the Fire Department; Public Works Department; Water and Sewer; and Administration.
- **Thursday, January 16, 2025:** Operating and Capital Budget review for the Community Services Department; Planning Department; and Building Department.
- **Tuesday, February 4, 2025,** Adopt and Finalize the 2025 Budget.

COUNCIL MEETINGS VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON

Council and Closed Session meetings are being conducted in-person (Council Chambers, 7 Milne St., Minden) and with electronic participation. Meetings begin at 9:00 am unless otherwise noted. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:
January 9 -Regular Council Meeting
January 30 – Regular Council Meeting
Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or via the live-stream link on the Township CivicWeb Portal.

SNOW REMOVAL

Section 181 of the Ontario Highway Traffic Act states: No person shall deposit snow or ice on a roadway without permission in writing to do so from the Ministry or the road authority responsible for the maintenance of the road. R.S.O. 1990, c. H.8, s. 181

SAFE WINTER DRIVING

When a winter storm is expected, drivers need to have a plan. It is important to delay unnecessary travel during significant storms to give plows time to do their jobs. It's also safer for drivers.

UPCOMING MUNICIPAL HOLIDAY HOURS

Municipal/Public Works/Fire Department Administration Offices
Dec 24th 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., CLOSED Dec 25th - Jan 1st
Cultural Centre/Agnes Jamieson Gallery
CLOSED Dec 24th - Jan 1st
Waste Disposal Sites
All Sites are CLOSED Dec 25th & Jan 1st.
Sites will operate on regular winter hours all other days.
SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena and Community Centre
Dec 24th 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m., Dec 31st 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
CLOSED Dec 25th, 26th & Jan 1st

JOB OPPORTUNITY

Join our Community Services Department as a Temporary, Full-Time Operator. Starts Jan 2025 for 12 months. 40 hours/week. Rate of pay will be $28.09/hour. Earnings subject to union dues. Application Deadline is Friday, December 20, 2024, at 4:00 PM. To apply, visit www.mindenhills.ca/careers.

RECREATION AND ACTIVITIES

Join us at the SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena and Community Centre during the winter break for our many drop-in activities. Pick up a copy of the schedule at the arena or check them out on our website.

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Violence against women trend disturbing

by JAMES MATTHEWS
Times Staff

The increase in incidents of violence against women in Ontario disturbs groups that provide services to women in Haliburton County.

And county council heard when it met Dec. 11 that it's a trend that should concern everybody who has a daughter, a wife, a girlfriend, a mother. Everybody who knows a woman.

In a period of 104 weeks recently, 124 women in Ontario were murdered by somebody they loved, said Kim Dolan, executive director at the Haliburton Peterborough YWCA.

"It's more than one woman a week and, frankly, one woman ever is too many," she said. "And that really compels us to take action."

She said Haliburton County comprises more than 4,000 square kilometres of land and lakes. That's about five people per square kilometre.

And therein lies an important fact to remember, she said.

"About the distance in geography and how isolating it is for the women we serve," she said.

According to Statistics Canada, there are 5,580 women in Haliburton County between the ages of 15 and 64. Of those, about 2,870 women are older than 65.

"And we know that 30 per cent of women over the age of 15 experience gender-based violence," Dolan said. "It happens to our girls, our friends, our mothers, our aunties and we've worked with many women who are 70 and older.

"In this county we can conservatively estimate that over 2,500 women have or are experiencing violence."

Rural realities are significant barriers for women with and without children. Those realities are social and physical isolation, challenges with transportation and communication, and often easy access to firearms.

There are issues related to income and a livable wage, she said.

"We've heard stories from women for years that when their abusive husband or boyfriend leaves for work during the day, the phones go with him whether it's a landline or a cellphone," Dolan said.

Intimate partner violence, domestic violence, and sexual violence are prevalent forms of gender-based violence against women, said Brittany MacMillan, the executive director at the Kawartha Sexual Assault Centre in Peterborough. The centre and the YWCA have linked up and will provide supports to Haliburton County in January.

The violence includes many types of harm caused by somebody with whom the woman has a relationship, MacMillan said.

"It does not discriminate and can result in immediate long lasting health, social, and economic consequences," she said.

Nycole Duncan, the Women's Centre and Haliburton Emergency Rural SafeSpace executive director, said the violence can happen anywhere. And there are many reasons why women in rural and remote settings are at increased risk.

> "We know that 30 per cent of women over the age of 15 experience gender–based violence.
>
> — KIM DOLAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE HALIBURTON PETERBOROUGH YWCA

"Traditional beliefs about gender roles, the permanence of marriage—until death do us part—shame, blame from themselves or from others, and secrecy," Duncan said.

Incidents of gender-based violence against women in rural areas that are reported to police are 75 per cent higher than those in urban areas, she said.

Carol Culleton, Anastasia Kuzyk, and Nathalie Warmerdam were murdered in September 2015 by a man with whom each of the women had a past relationship. None of them knew about his history of violence towards women.

Not at first, anyway.

Each of the women thought the former relationship was in the past. And their murders highlighted the critical failures in systems meant to protect victims of intimate partner violence.

A coroner's inquest was held to investigate circumstances that led to three femicides on the same day. It resulted in a series of recommendations aimed at preventing future violence and improving protections for those at risk.

In total, 86 recommendations for change were made in June 2022. Among the top recommendations was to declare intimate partner violence an epidemic.

Change was recommended to oversight and accountability, system approaches, collaboration and communication, funding, education and training, measures addressing perpetrators of intimate partner violence, intervention, and safety.

Dolan said her organization gathers information about women who are the victims of intimate femicide. That pool of information is limited to what's covered by newspapers.

"There isn't one location that collects the data," she said.

Incidents of women murdered declined a little from 2018 to 2020. But then the COVID-19 pandemic happened and the women's centre heard from women from rural areas especially that the violence happened more frequently.

"And that each violent incident was more dramatic and more harmful," Dolan said.

The past two years saw another spike in incidents.

"Higher than we had seen in a very, very long time," she said. "The trend line is disturbing."

Police forces use the term homicide, but that's specific to men, she said. The term femicide speaks about the impact on women.

Duncan said women are at greatest risk from those they know and often live with and love.

"Being at home is the least safe place to be," Duncan said.

Particularly for women living in northern rural communities rather than southern rural or urban settings, according to Statistics Canada information.

"And we are northern," Duncan said.

Intimate partner violence is an epidemic and as many as 95 Ontario municipalities have formally declared it as such. The provincial government has yet to make such a declaration.

"We do remain hopeful," said Dolan. "I know that there's been lots of letters and lots of support in asking our provincial government (to declare an epidemic)."

Councillor Liz Danielsen, the mayor of Algonquin Highlands, suggested the term intimate partner violence could apply to male victims and all sexual orientations as it does to women.

Dolan acknowledged that the term applies to women, gender diverse individuals, people who identify as 2SLGBTQ, and men.

"The current data that we have is that about 80 per cent of victims of intimate partner violence are women," she said.

Often when a woman murders a man with whom they've been intimate, it follows years of abuse.

"Women tend to be motivated more by trying to save their own lives and the lives of their children," Dolan said.

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Dave Burton appointed county warden

by **JAMES MATTHEWS**
Times Staff

Haliburton County has a new face in the warden's seat at the council table.

Highlands East Mayor Dave Burton shuffled from the deputy warden's chair to the top spot on council for a one-year term.

The upper tier council chose between Burton and Minden Hills Mayor Bob Carter during a Dec. 10 election.

Burton was nominated by Algonquin Highlands Mayor Liz Danielsen, who was the outgoing warden, and Dysart Mayor Murray Fearrey.

Carter was tapped to be a choice by Minden Hills Deputy Mayor Lisa Schell and Algonquin Highlands Deputy Mayor Jennifer Dailloux.

Danielsen spoke about how proud it has made her to be the county's warden for as long as she has.

"During our tenure, we've worked our way successfully through several really challenging pieces of legislation," she said. "And we've made numerous and some really good improvements and decisions during our time."

She lauded county staff and her council colleagues for the successes achieved.

Danielsen said she has known Burton for more than 16 years.

"While there have certainly been times when we saw things through a different lens, when asked how I would describe Dave it would be as a man who loves his family dearly, represents his community to the level best of his ability, and who would always respond to a call for help from a friend at a moment's notice," she said.

Burton is a veteran of the municipal and county political arena, having been mayor of Highlands East for 20 years. He has also been warden several times in those years. He has spent time as the Eastern Ontario Regional Network's (EORN) chairperson.

"I truly believe that Dave will listen to all of our concerns equally and when representing Haliburton County to the outside world, particularly on the EORN caucus," Danielsen said. "I fully trust that he will always represent the county fairly.

"He will advocate on our behalf and can be relied upon to forward the position that this council has agreed upon during our discussions and democratic decision-making process."

Fearrey said it didn't take Burton long before he became involved with municipal politics after he moved into the county in the 1990s. He characterized Burton as a man of honour.

"Dave has the ability to make a kind of a character of himself," Fearrey said. "He doesn't say something if he hasn't got something to say. He's very sincere."

With four lower tier municipalities represented on county council, Schell said everybody should spend time as warden. And she believed it was Carter's turn for the coming term.

"Bob has proven to be dedicated in his role and to our community," she said.

He's also involved with many groups and organizations with an interest in social welfare and housing.

Dailloux said Carter's example compels his colleagues to recognize the complexity that is inherent in matters that land before council.

"Bob excels at visualizing the connective tissue between topics that are typically assigned to distinct mental boxes and he regularly does so on the fly," she said. "He does his homework. He shows up prepared and he's not afraid to say things he knows won't be popular."

Carter is aware that a one per cent tax increase feels different to somebody who has to choose to put food on the table or pay the heat bill than it does for somebody who must decide which restaurant to go to.

"He has fire in his heart and urgency in his mind," Dailloux said.

Burton said he honours the county's unwavering spirit, commitment, aspirations, and enthusiasm.

"I see the results of our early mornings and our late nights and our sacrifices to prevail on the issues that we have overcome," he said.

He committed to creating a more efficient county.

"Haliburton County's permanent and seasonal population will continue to grow over the next decade, creating development pressures," Burton said. "We must consider enhancing community services and regulations while maintaining our identity.

"One way to do this might be to align some of our bylaws and our building codes from the low tier."

Carter thanked Danielsen for her years of service and leadership. Change is a constant in this world, he said.

"But I'm not sure it's really been changing at the rate and in the directions that it is changing today," he said. "We have here seen it in a number of different ways."

> "We've worked our way successfully through several really challenging pieces of legislation."
>
> — LIZ DANIELSEN, ALGONQUIN HIGHLANDS MAYOR AND FORMER COUNTY WARDEN

The population has significantly grown in the last six years but services have not been able to keep up. The services haven't kept up because there are too few people in the county to fill the service-delivery roles.

"That situation is exacerbated by the fact that we have not enough housing for those people," Carter said. "It's hard to hire somebody if they come here and they can't find a place to live."

The number of physicians in the county is half what it was and the same thing happens with other medical professionals.

"This situation with change is it's going to happen whether we like it or not," he said. "It can either happen to us or we can work with it to try to steer it in a way that makes it more acceptable to us."

Danielsen and Carter both declared their interest in running for the deputy warden position.

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Liberal mess

WHEN I was in elementary school, our class had a debate regarding the transition to the Harmonized Sales Tax. While it was many years ago, I can recall that kids in my class did not like the idea of all products being taxed at 13 per cent, whereas goods were broken up in categories before, with some products taxed at 5 per cent, others 8 per cent, and some getting taxed with both.

On Dec. 14, our Liberal government started giving us a 'tax holiday' that will last until Feb. 15, 2025. This holiday will remove the GST from the price of select products.

THOMAS SMITH
Editor

What does this entail for the average Canadian?

Absolutely nothing.

The tax holiday removes the tax from restaurants and take out, alcoholic beverages (but nothing stronger than seven per cent ABV), children's clothing and footwear, children's diapers, kid's toys, physical video games and consoles, physical books, printed newspapers, and Christmas trees.

The Canadian Revenue Agency has given little to no guidance for implementing this tax holiday for businesses and notoriously has left things vague. For example, protein shakes may receive the tax break, but not if the protein shake is enhanced with protein and isn't considered food by Health Canada.

Who exactly is this tax holiday given a break for?

Wine moms who want to buy enough toys to keep their kids occupied while curling up to read a new book?

For a large portion of Canadians who are cooking their own food at home to save money, do not have kids, or do not play video games, this tax holiday is unexciting.

Why are things like adult clothing, feminine hygiene products, and dental hygiene products not included?

Are they not necessary for your health and joy over the holidays?

Why are our electricity and gas bills not seeing a break during this time?

Why is gasoline and diesel not given a break for consumers? Gas is also not necessary for joy over the holidays?

This tax holiday implemented by Trudeau is a lot of show for a whole lot of nothing.

It has been a mess since the beginning. Luckily, the businesses that I have talked to in Minden did not have any issues implementing the temporary changes. Stores like Stedman's and Pharmasave have a small selection of items that are getting a break from the tax. It has been a rather simple and smooth transition for them.

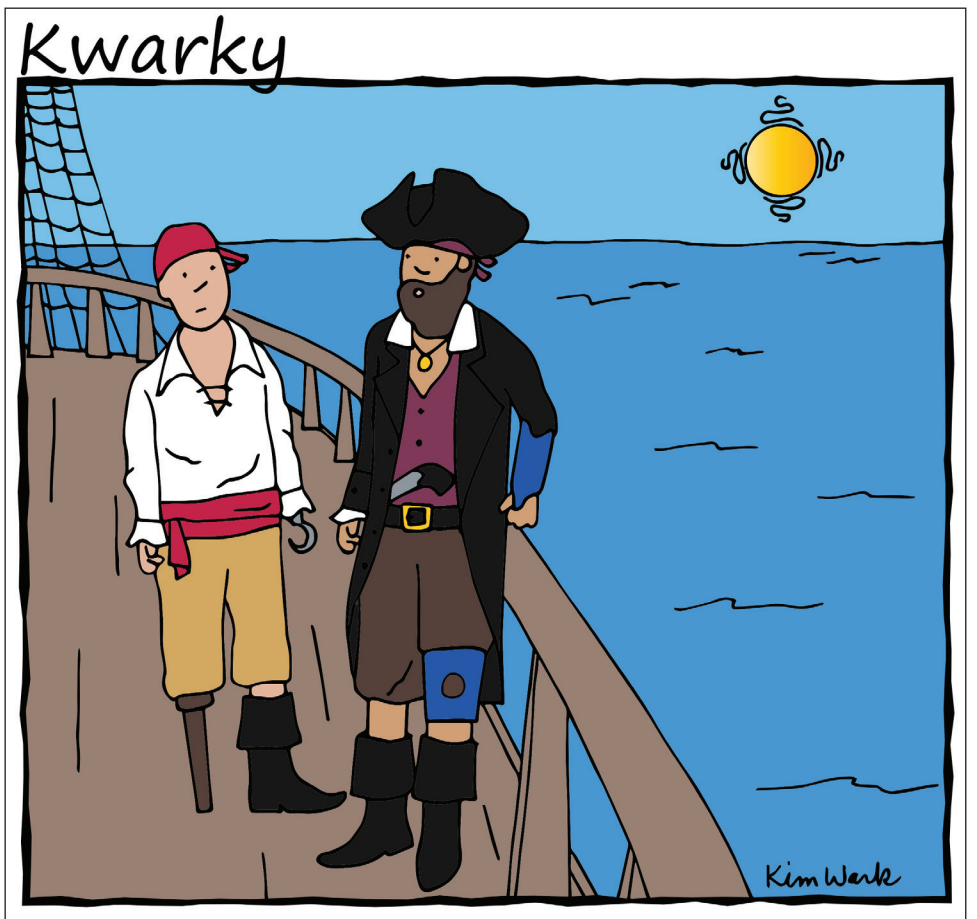
The Liberals pushed this tax holiday idea as a half-baked scheme for votes in this upcoming year's election.

A clear life preserver for the sinking ship that is the Liberal party, this smoke and mirrors of a tax holiday does not hide the struggles Trudeau is facing.

On Dec. 16, Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland resigned after disagreeing with Trudeau's approach to the 25 per cent tariffs that Trump is seeking against Canada.

Mark my words, 'Governor' Trudeau will bend to Trump's whims and accelerate Canada's economic death roll.

When gas hits two dollars, try and recall fondly when the Liberals made your case of beer two dollars cheaper. I doubt this tax holiday is enough to ensure a win for Trudeau in next year's election.



"I have an excellent healthcare plan."

Post season surprise

THE ARCHERY season for deer ended in the area I live on Sunday. That's why everyone I know saw quite a few big bucks on Monday.

They saw them mostly on the Internet, on all the trail camera photos and videos that hunters are posting on their social media accounts. Those posts show all sorts of images of big bucks that were previously declared nocturnal or had even mysteriously disappeared for the entire season.

But now, a mere day after the season has ended, these brazen deer are walking carefree in broad daylight and posing regally for the post season photoshoots. If you look closely, you might catch a hint of a smile too.

STEVE GALEA
Beyond 35

I'm pretty sure this is the deer's version of flipping us the bird.

To be honest, this is also one of my favourite parts of the hunting season – particularly if the person showing you those images passed up a bunch of great shot opportunities early on and then announced, "Sooner or later the big one has to show."

That's absolutely true by the way. But anyone who has hunted deer for any length of time knows the answer is only "sooner" if you are not in your stand, and "later," if you stick it out till the last day.

Also, at this time, there are many folks who cite these photos and videos as proof positive that deer can read the hunting regulations. That's silly, of course. Proof that deer can read the regulations is when you only see antlerless deer after you have proclaimed that you don't have an antlerless tag.

I personally believe that seeing deer that you would have liked to harvest one day after the season ends is just another one of those cruel tricks the universe likes to play on us all. You know, like having to choose between sealing up a wall tent to keep the cold and rain out or dealing with the consequences of six hunters gorging on spicy food all day.

Whatever causes this phenomenon doesn't really matter though.

Mostly because, it is not all bad news. For one thing, this gives you something to either dream about, or have nightmares about, until the start of next deer season. Either way, your thoughts are on deer hunting.

Plus, every hunter secretly roots for the deer every now and then. This is because we respect how tough they have to be to survive the winter to come and how crafty they need to be to outwit the predators (ourselves included) who want to eat them.

If this week is any indication, I have now seen enough of these photos to rest assured knowing that our deer herd will enter winter in fine shape and great numbers.

What also matters is the joy this imparts upon those of us who settled for lesser deer and already filled our tags. Because, let's face it, most of us don't place our tags on those magazine-cover trophies that we dream of. And, though we are happy to bring home the venison, afterwards, we can't help but ask ourselves what might have happened if we were just a little more patient and waited a bit longer.

The answer is this: you would have seen a massive buck, just a day after the deer season ended. Probably two.

InOtherWords

Columns and Letters to the Editor

Holiday tech giving

THIS TIME last year I wrote an article, "'Tis the season for gifting gadgets." In it I outlined a few strategies for holiday technology giving to save money and avoid contributing to the millions of tonnes of e-waste generated every year. All that advice still stands and can be found on my website at erinkernohan.ca.

With the holidays upon us again, here's a few more pieces of advice if you're thinking about buying technology as a gift for one of your loved ones or navigating the world of online gift buying.

Watch out for subscriptions – for better or worse

If you're buying a gadget for someone, make sure to double check that it doesn't require a subscription to be fully functional. Increasingly, smart devices come with strings attached, like key features not working without a subscription. Make sure to read any fine print before you purchase a smart device and be sure to understand if there are any ongoing costs for subscription features.

ERIN KERNOHAN-BERNING

Humans and Technology

On the other hand, if your loved one has a subscription to something, consider making your gift a contribution to that ongoing cost.

Accessorize

If someone you know has a piece of tech they are never without, check out what accessories are available for their device of choice. Are they always dropping their phone? Spring for a durable case to cushion those falls, or a phone grip attachment. Do they use their tablet for recipes while cooking or baking? A stand to keep it up off the counter might be a welcome gift. Always on the hunt for their keys, wallet, or other small annoyingly-easy-to-misplace item? Consider one of the many GPS tags for finding those lost items.

Keep in mind that accessories can be device specific, even down to the model, so you may want to consider spoiling the surprise and checking in with your prospective gift recipient on what their specific needs are.

Social media ads can be good inspiration – but do your homework

There are many independent artisans out there that reach customers through social media platforms like Instagram and Facebook. Buying from small businesses through their online store is a great way to support artists and makers, and to find that one of a kind gift. Unfortunately, there's also a ton of junk Instagram and Facebook ads featuring products that don't live up to their Instagrammable photo, or that are completely fake. I've come across more than one ad where a little extra searching revealed that the image was AI generated and the product didn't actually exist.

If you see the perfect gift in a photo on a social media platform, open a browser and search for the company using your search engine of choice. Check their website and online reviews to make sure that they are who they say they are. Not clicking on that ad and doing a little extra investigation will ensure that you get what you are expecting, and that your money supports a business you can trust. As a bonus, many artisans who sell their products online will offer alternative arrangements for local pickup.

Consider a tech-adjacent option

If you have someone in your life who enjoys using technology and learning about technology, there are lots of options that aren't a device or software or app that might still be appealing. For the readers out there, books can open a window to a variety of technology topics whether learning about a topic like coding or robotics, learning about the history or social impact of technology, or exploring science and technology through fiction.

There are also plenty of technology themed items like clothes and toys. If your loved one has a favourite YouTuber or TikTok personality, odds are they have a merchandise store with all sorts of goodies. Again, buyer beware. You'll want to check reviews from people who have purchased from a particular store and ensure that when you do spend your money that you're getting what you expect.

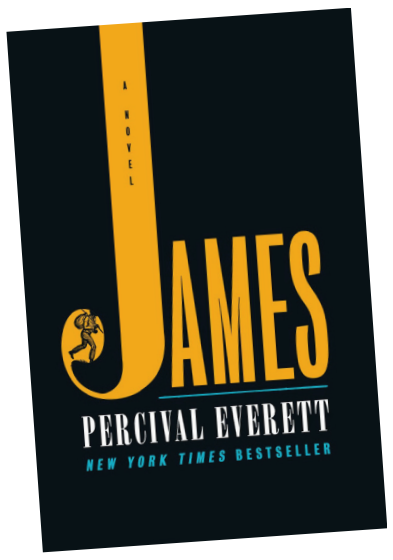
Finally, beware of online scams during the holiday shopping season. With a deluge of marketing emails, order confirmations, shipping notifications, and the like, it's very easy in a moment of distraction to click on a link in a malicious email. When in doubt, navigate directly to the retailer you've been shopping at and login to your account to track purchases and review charges.

Hopefully you'll find some of this advice helpful as you safely and thoughtfully cross items off your gift giving list this season.

Minden Memories

The train station in Gelert was built to serve the Victoria Railway constructed in the mid-1870s, connecting Lindsay and Haliburton. The train station is no longer standing, and the railway has been transformed into a recreational corridor. /Photo courtesy of the Minden Hills Cultural Centre

HCPL's Book of the Week



When the enslaved Jim overhears that he is about to be sold to a man in New Orleans, separated from his wife and daughter forever, he decides to hide on nearby Jackson Island until he can formulate a plan. Meanwhile, Huck Finn has faked his own death to escape his violent father, recently returned to town. As all readers of American literature know, thus begins the dangerous and transcendent journey by raft down the Mississippi River toward the elusive and too-often-unreliable promise of the Free States and beyond. A brilliant, action-packed reimagining of Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, both harrowing and darkly humorous, told from the enslaved Jim's point of view.

James by Percival Everett is available to borrow as a book or book club set from the Haliburton County Public Library.

Out of the Cold program offers warmth

As winter approaches, our thoughts often turn toward those experiencing homelessness in our community. A Place Called Home is funded to provide emergency shelter to residents of Haliburton County and the City of Kawartha Lakes, including youth, adults, and families. Located in Lindsay, the shelter operates 30 beds, which represents a recent increase from 19 beds.

When an individual requires emergency shelter, they can call A Place Called Home. Staff will assess the situation, ensuring no other safe or viable options exist. If none are identified individuals will be offered a space in the shelter, based on availability. In very specific instances, depending on current shelter space and/or the individuals' circumstances, staff can authorize a brief hotel stay in the county. Transportation via taxi will be arranged as needed.

Although our primary goal is to provide long-term housing solutions, some community members may temporarily need emergency shelter. Individuals facing homelessness in our area encounter numerous challenges in securing safe and stable housing. As part of our ongoing efforts, we are involved in community planning initiatives to identify housing options and supportive services for the most vulnerable members of our population.

Additionally, when temperatures drop below minus ten degrees Celsius, we will temporarily increase shelter capacity through the Out of the Cold Program to ensure that those experiencing homelessness have access to warmth and safety. Our priority is to bring people indoors during extreme weather, protecting them from the dangers of the cold. The Out of the Cold Program runs from Dec. 1, 2024, to March 31, 2025, and is also operated by A Place Called Home through the use of local motel rooms.

Over the past month, all individuals known to be experiencing unsheltered homelessness in the County of Haliburton have received supports to secure housing or find safer shelter options for the winter. This reduction is a direct result of our housing-focused support and the resourcefulness of our community members. The City of Kawartha Lakes has a dedicated homeless outreach worker in Haliburton County who engages with those experiencing homelessness and connects them to various community supports.

If you are at risk of becoming homeless, please contact A Place Called Home at 705-328-0905, or toll-free at 1-866-520-2689.

If you see someone staying outside, please report this by completing the City's Encampment Reporting Form at www.forms.kawarthalakes.ca/Housing-Help/Encampment-Reporting or email the Homelessness Street Outreach Team at streetoutreach@kawarthalakes.ca. Please note that these forums are not for crisis intervention. If you encounter someone in distress or facing a medical emergency, please call 9-1-1 immediately.

To learn more about Community Safety and Well-Being in Haliburton County, visit haliburtoncounty.ca/CSWB.

Submitted by Michelle Corley, Human Services Manager, Housing, City of Kawartha Lakes and Angela Ricciuti, Executive Director, A Place Called Home

Home Hardware supports food centre

Minden Home Hardware's contractor services representative Jason presents an $850 cheque to the Minden Community Food Centre. /Submitted

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Pay raise considered for next council

by JAMES MATTHEWS
Times Staff

Next year's budget illustrates how Haliburton County recognizes the need for efficiency at the upper tier.

Gary Dyke, the county's CAO, said the cost of operating the county represents a little more than one per cent of the tax levy.

"I think we do a very progressive budget," said Dyke. "We work very hard in prioritizing our funding into areas that we think are really impactful while recognizing the demands on the lower tiers as well as the ratepayers across the county."

Andrea Robinson, the county's corporate services director, delivered the second draft of next year's spending plan when county council met Dec. 11.

The 2025 operating and capital budget has a $24,985,742 total levy requirement which is an increase of $1,728,785 from 2024.

That increase has been aided by a 1.45 per cent growth in assessment.

The 1.5 per cent capital levy means a total increase of $15.97 for every $100,000 of assessed residential property value.

Of that $1.7 million spending increase over 2024, almost 80 per cent of outside the county's control, Robinson said.

Thirty-seven per cent goes to transfers, 29 per cent is catch-up for loss of funding, 17 per cent is brought by capital growth, 10 per cent is due to inflation, and 6.3 per cent is for operating growth base budget adjustment.

All that means 1.13 per cent of the 4.8 per cent tax rate increase is for operating and capital increases.

It's anticipated that the county will end 2025 with about $8.9 million in reserves, which includes $3.7 million for committed purchases.

By increasing the dedicated capital levy to 1.5 per cent in 2025, it would result in a capital reserve of about $6.13 million by 2035.

"It's important to recognize the decisions that you're making with the 2025 budget and how it affects following years," Robinson said.

There are about $400,000 in identified items that could affect the operation budget in 2026 and $385,000 that could impact that year's capital budget.

Some of the factors that should be brought to council's attention for potential impacts in 2026 and beyond include $74,400 to fully fund new paramedic supervisor positions, $16,500 in annual fees for new growth items such as Tracmatics and Questica software upgrades, $130,500 in new debt payments, $74,000 continued decreased funding from the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund and the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund, and a $385,000 structure program.

Councillor Murray Fearrey, Dysart's mayor, said he isn't an advocate for more spending. But residents' average age is older than 70 years.

"And we're not attracting younger people because they can't leave their jobs and come to work and do this (council) job," he said. "And it is a job now. It's not like it was."

He said he wanted to know how Haliburton County's compensation for councillors compares to other municipalities and upper tier councils.

Coun. Liz Danielsen, the mayor of Algonquin Highlands, said 75 per cent of council are seniors, which is not representative of residents despite having been elected.

"Having thought about that and the fact that normally if there's any consideration given to an increase for councils, it's done for the incoming council," she said.

If an increase were to be considered, the possibility of phasing it in over a number of years should also be considered, she said.

"So that there's less impact on the budget overall," Danielsen said.

Coun. Bob Carter, the mayor of Minden Hills, said he agreed with Fearrey but implementing an increase in phases would be difficult.

"One of the notions of why we would have an increase is to try to attract people to the job," Carter said. "And we almost need to have that determined up front at the time of the next election."

For the most part, serving on a council is no longer a part-time job, he said.

"And if we're going to ask for people to dedicate all of their time to this and do it right, I think that they have to be compensated for it," Carter said.

Danielsen said many people don't realize that councillors don't earn a livable wage.

Council approved next year's budget and gave the green light for a review of council compensation.

A holiday shake

A deer shakes snow off herself while enjoying a stroll. /Photo by Tammy Nash

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CANOE 100.9 FM
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On-Air Testing on 97.1 FM in Minden!

Canoe FM is excited to announce that **Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED)** has authorized us to begin on-air testing of the permanent transmitting facilities at our repeater station, **CKHA-FM-1**, broadcasting on **97.1 FM** out of **Minden, Ontario.**

Testing will begin on **December 17, 2024**, and will conclude no later than **January 28, 2025**.

We value your feedback during this testing period. If you have any ***comments or concerns***, please reach out to us by:
Email: manager@canoefm.com
Phone: 705-457-1009

After the testing has been approved 97.1 Minden & 100.9 Haliburton will be permanent frequencies in our County. Thank you for your support as we improve Canoe FM's reach to serve more of our amazing community!

Canoe FM – Community Radio - The Voice of the Haliburton Highlands.

Help them break the silence of abuse and move forward on their healing journey.

You can help the YWCA provide life-changing services to women and children escaping abuse and domestic violence.

Please make your holiday gift today.

Give online:
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cell: 705.457.0364
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Send your event listing to classifieds@haliburtonpress.com

hristmas Eve Service
When: Christmas Eve at 7 p.m.
Where: Eagle Lake Community Church

Recurring events

TOPS: Take Off Pounds Sensibly
When: Monday mornings 9:30 to 11 a.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion Branch 129, upper level
Admission: Yearly membership of $59
A non-profit/commercial network of weight-loss support groups, offers programs for healthy living and weight management.

Bridge for Seniors
When: Mondays at 1 p.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion - Schofield Room
All welcome

Haliburton Legion Walking Group
When: Mondays at 9 to 10 a.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion - Remembrance Hall
A safe walking environment. Lead by an Occupational therapist.

Free Balanced Fitness and Active Social Senior Classes
When: Every second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 10 to 11 a.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion - Remembrance Hall
All seniors are welcome. Group led by Registered Recreation Therapist

Bid Euchre
When: Wednesdays at 1 p.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion - Remembrance Hall
All welcome!

Seniors Chair Exercises
When: Thursdays at 1 p.m.
Where: St. George's Anglican Church, 617 Mountain Street
Please join us for safe and gentle exercises for seniors to help with balance, strength and flexibility. Free to join.

Cards/Euchre/Cribbage
When: Thursdays at 2:30 p.m.
Where: St. George's Church
617 Mountain Street

Lakeside Church Service
When: Sunday at 9 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.
Where: 9 Park Street, Haliburton.
Whoever you are, wherever you've been, you are welcome here.

Weekly Meat Rolls
When: Every Saturday, 3 p.m.
Where: Coboconk Legion, Hwy 48 and 35
Join us for our weekly meat draw at the Coboconk Legion. Five spins for $10. The first four rounds are for highest and lowest score with two winners per round. The last round is for a prepare-it-yourself dinner for two. Additional spins for this round are available for $2 each. Call 705-454-8127 or email info@coboconklegion.ca for more information.

A Curling Christmas Party

The Voices Rising Choir sang songs and Christmas carols at the Minden Curling Club Christmas Party held on Saturday Dec. 14. /THOMAS SMITH Staff

Underfunding, understaffing plagues TLDSB

Trillium Lakelands District School Board (TLDSB) recently announced an $8 million surplus for the 2023-2024 school year, reporting that it was in a "good position to make positive impacts on student achievement and well-being," yet workers say extreme underfunding and understaffing has created an unsafe learning environment plagued with violence for students and staff.

CUPE 997, which represents workers across all Trillium Lakelands schools, is calling on the school board to heavily invest in hiring more staff across the Kawartha Lakes, Haliburton County and Muskoka areas to combat the long-term understaffing, widespread burnout, job cuts and the decline in student experience and safety due to worsened student-to-worker ratios.

CUPE 997 represents over 800 members across 56 TLDSB schools who work as Educational Assistants, clerical staff, and maintenance, custodial and technical staff.

"The school board is boasting an $8 million surplus, but at what expense?" says William Campbell, President of CUPE 997. "Our staff are struggling with burnout and exhaustion and are afraid to come to work every day for fear of being hurt. With that in mind, why is the TLDSB not spending the funding it has received in order to keep our students and staff safe at school and work? While chronic underfunding by the Ford government leads to extreme understaffing, the TLDSB must spend the funding it does receive. It's not fair to our students and it's not fair to workers. Our students deserve to be able to learn in a safe environment."

A survey conducted by CUPE's Ontario School Board Council of Unions (OSBCU) revealed that more than three-quarters of TLDSB workers say there is a violent incident at least once a month at their workplace, and one-third of respondents say a violent incident occurs at their workplace every day. Over half of members say their workspace is evacuated at least once a month due to violent and disruptive behaviour.

Eighty-four percent of TLDSB workers who responded to the survey believe there must be an increase in staff to meet the needs of students to create a healthy, safe and manageable work environment and provide adequate supports to TLDSB students.

"Our schools face serious challenges today," says Joe Tigani, President of OSBCU. "Incidents of violence and injuries affecting staff are increasing, highlighting a critical issue: lack of adequate funding in Ontario's education system. Every worker deserves a safe environment. Educators and school staff should be able to come to work without fear of violence or injury, and students deserve safe learning environments, free from exposure to violence. Schools should be spaces where students feel secure and supported."

According to the union, the TLDSB has consistently received less funding by the Ford government year over year, with real-pupil funding (adjusted for inflation and enrolment growth) cut by $1569 between 2012 and 2025 per student. Had this funding kept up with inflation, the school board would have received an additional $27.3 million from the Ford government in the 2024-2025 school year alone and could have hired an additional 365 full-time education workers.

The Ontario School Board Council of Unions (OSBCU) unites 57,000 CUPE education workers in the public, Catholic, English, and French school systems across the province.

Submitted

Feeding the need

Jace and Addie, from Mrs. Kempel's Grade 4 class at Archie Stouffer Elementary School stand proudly beside food raised for the school's annual food drive. /THOMAS SMITH Staff

Gifts from the Heart

2024 fundraising campaign

Your donation helps SIRCH Community Kitchen provide 1,400 free, healthy meals per month to individuals struggling with food insecurity

Please give what you can!

- Scan the QR Code
- VISA, Mastercard, AMEX
- sirch.on.ca/donate

If you prefer to send a cheque and are concerned about the postal strike, call us for a home pick-up

SIRCH community services

705-457-1742

giftshop

THE WOLF MOON

15 Newcastle St. Minden, ON

thewolfmoon.ca | thewolfmoonshop

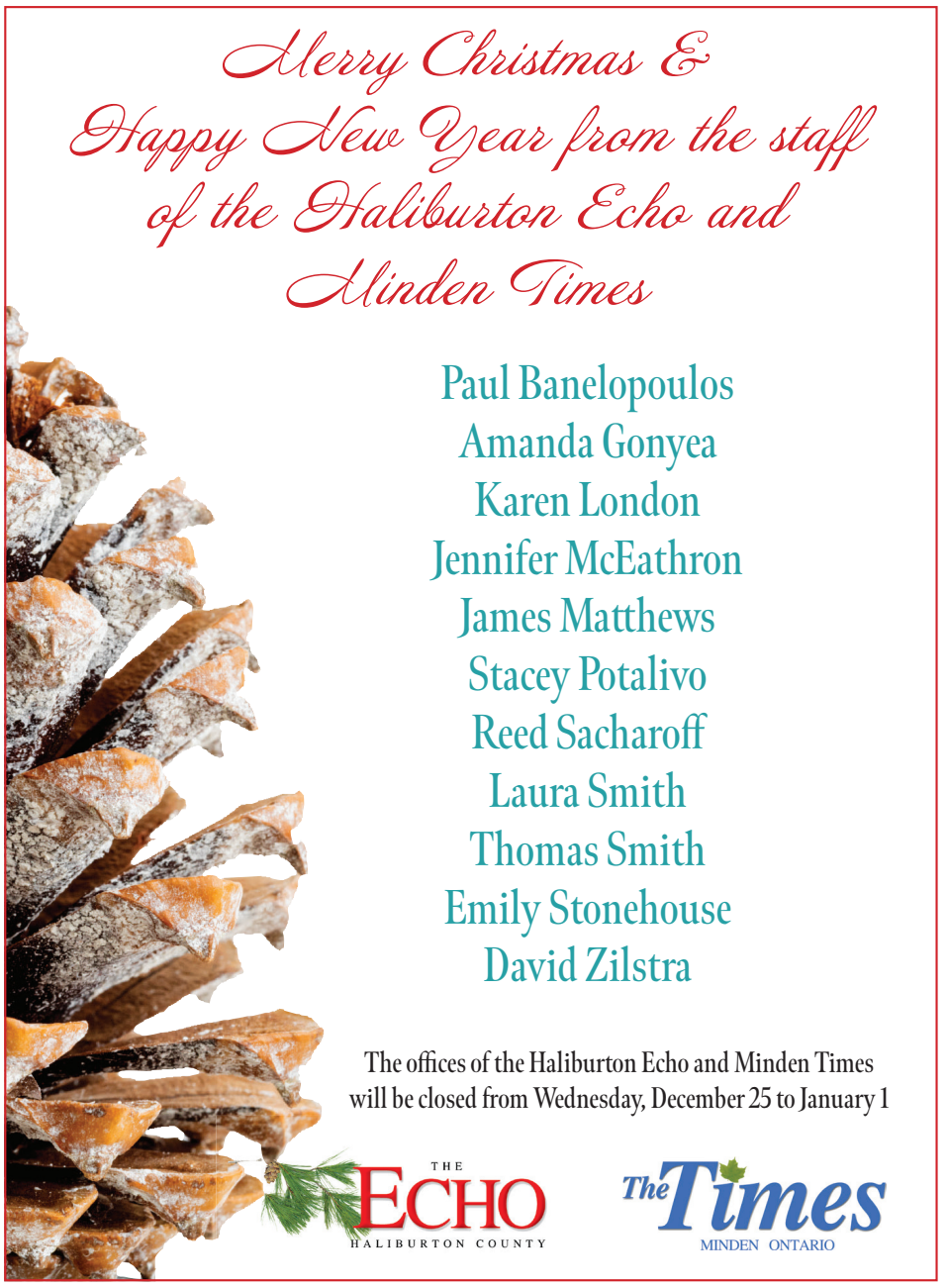
studio ROOF

Recycled Cardboard Ornaments

Studio Roof Tax-Free until February 15th

Picking the perfect present

Students from Archie Stouffer Elementary School were excited to pick out Christmas presents for friends and family at their annual Christmas Market. Items were donated by the local community. /THOMAS SMITH Staff



Huskies defeat Panthers 4-1

Huskies faced off against the Pickering Panthers on Saturday Dec. 14. After an electric game, the Huskies won 4-1 against the Panthers. /THOMAS SMITH Staff

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SUDOKU

				2		5	3	
		3		7				8
					9		7	
		2	4					3
8	4					2		
	5							1
	9	5						
7	2		5			6		
1		8						

Level: Advanced

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Answers on page 14

THE TOWNSHIP OF MINDEN HILLS
IN SEASON, EVERY SEASON

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills has received an application to consider a by-law to stop up, close, and convey a parcel of land, being a shoreline road allowance, and more particularly described as follows:

1. **File No. PLSRA2024030**: Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Canning Lake, lying in front of 1027 Ketola Lane located within Part Lot 15, Concession 14, Geographic Township of Snowdon.

The above noted application is available for inspection in the Planning Department located at 7 Milne Street, Minden, Ontario by appointment only. Additional information may be obtained by contacting the undersigned.

AND TAKE NOTICE should you wish to provide comments with respect to the above referenced application, please submit in writing those comments to the undersigned not later than January 10, 2025.

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE any person who claims that their land will be prejudicially affected is asked to contact the undersigned not later than January 10, 2025.

AND TAKE FURTHER NOTICE if deemed advisable, a By-law giving effect to the proposed closure and conveyance will be passed by the Council for the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills. Please note that a Council meeting to consider a By-law for the above referenced applications will be scheduled at a later date following the requisite commenting period.

Amanda Dougherty, B.A. (Hons)
Manager of Planning
Township of Minden Hills
705-286-1260 Ext. 506
adougherty@mindenhills.ca

UnFinished Objects craft group continues

Join local crafters at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre for our UnFinished Objects (UFO) craft group! Bring your unfinished projects and enjoy a relaxing session working alongside others. The group will continue to gather twice a month on Fridays: Jan. 3 and 17, Feb. 7 and 21, March 7 and 21, April 4 and 25, May 9 and 23, June 6 and 20, 2025.

The Minden Hills Cultural Centre is located at 176 Bobcaygeon Road, Minden. The Agnes Jamieson Gallery is open year-round from Tuesday to Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Minden Hills Museum and Heritage Village and Nature's Place are open seasonally from May to October.

Submitted

Home Hardware Food and Toy Drive

Jason Reay Construction donated $500 to Minden Home Hardware's Toy and Food Drive. /Submitted

SUDOKU SOLUTION

4	7	9	1	2	8	5	3	6
5	1	3	6	7	4	9	2	8
2	8	6	3	5	9	1	7	4
9	6	2	4	1	7	8	5	3
8	4	1	9	3	5	2	6	7
3	5	7	8	6	2	4	9	1
6	9	5	7	4	1	3	8	2
7	2	4	5	8	3	6	1	9
1	3	8	2	9	6	7	4	5

THE TOWNSHIP OF MINDEN HILLS
IN SEASON, EVERY SEASON

Notice of Complete Applications and Public Meetings Concerning Zoning By-Law Amendments

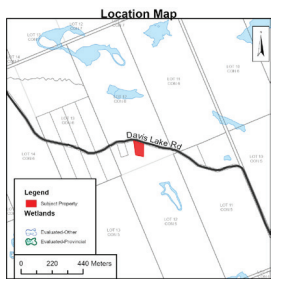
Take Notice that the Township of Minden Hills has received complete applications to amend the Township's Zoning By-law.

And Take Notice that the Township of Minden Hills will be holding a **Public Meeting**, as required under the Planning Act. Any member of the public may speak in favour, or opposition to, the proposed amendment during the Public Meeting.

Date and Location of Public Meetings
Date: Thursday, January 9, 2025
Time: 9:00 AM
Location: Hybrid Meeting (In-person in Township Council Chambers and Electronic via Zoom)

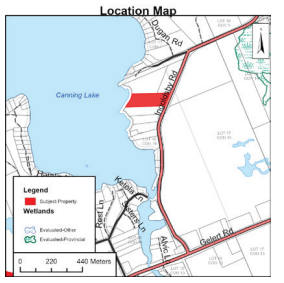
The purpose of the Public Hearing will be to consider zoning by-law amendment applications **PLZBA2024061 and PLZBA2024067** pursuant to Section 34 of the Planning Act. The Public Meeting is an opportunity for Council to hear and consider comments related to the proposed amendment. The zoning by-law amendment applications for Public Meeting are listed below:

PLZBA2024061 - Part Lot 12, Concession 6, Geographic Township of Lutterworth, being 2513 Davis Lake Road (see Key Map).



Purpose and Effect: The subject property is currently zoned 'General Industrial Exception Five (M1-5)' and is located within the Rural designation of the Township's Official Plan. The current zoning on the property permits the use of the land as a salvage yard. The property is occupied by a dwelling, which is a permitted accessory use to an operating salvage yard. As a salvage yard no longer operates on the property, the landowners are proposing to use the land for residential uses only. The zoning by-law amendment would serve to rezone the property from 'General Industrial Exception Five (M1-5)' zone to 'Rural (RU)' zone to permit the principal use of the property for residential uses.

PLZBA2024067 - Part Lot 16, Concession 14, Geographic Township of Snowdon, being 1237 Ingoldsby Road, Canning Lake (see Key Map).



Purpose and Effect: The subject property is currently zoned 'Shoreline Residential (SR)' and is located within the Waterfront designation of the Township's Official Plan. The property owners are proposing to tear down two (2) boathouses in order to construct one (1) new boathouse. Existing boathouses may be reconstructed on the same footprint, inclusive of size, height and location. The height of the boathouse will remain unchanged. The ground floor area of the boathouse will increase from a combined 88 square metres (947 square feet) to 90.24 square metres (971 square feet). A new location for the boathouse is also proposed and to be setback 5.5 metres (18 feet) from the high water mark of Canning Lake. The zoning by-law amendment would rezone the property from 'Shoreline Residential (SR)' zone to 'Shoreline Residential Exception (SR-E)' zone to permit the construction of the boathouse. In accordance with the Official Plan, reconstruction of the boathouse will be subject to site plan control under Section 41 of the Planning Act.

To Watch: Members of the Public wishing to watch the meeting in person can do so by attending the Township Council Chambers, located at 7 Milne Street, Minden. Members of the Public wishing to watch the meeting virtually can do so by joining the Meeting Live Stream Link on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/@townshipofmindenhills4716

To Participate in Person: Members of the public wishing to participate and make comment/speak at the Public Meeting must: pre-register by emailing admin@mindenhills.ca by Wednesday January 8th before 4:00 PM or by registering the morning of the meeting before 8:30 AM in the Township Council Chambers, 7 Milne Street, Minden.

To Participate via Zoom on the Web or by Telephone please email admin@mindenhills.ca by Wednesday January 8th before 4:00 PM to obtain login information. **If attending virtually, please log-on 30 minutes before the meeting.**

Written Submissions either in support of or opposition to the application must be received prior to the Public Meeting and can be submitted to adougherty@mindenhills.ca

Please Note: We encourage those wishing to view the meeting to also download the agenda, as it will not be displayed during the streaming process. **Meeting agendas can be downloaded by visiting the** Township website at: https://www.mindenhills.ca/council/

The live-stream link provided for each meeting will only be activated while Council is in session.

Additional Information regarding the proposed Amendment is available to the public for inspection at the Municipal Office located at 7 Milne Street by appointment or on the Township website. For more information about this matter, including information about preserving your appeal rights, contact the undersigned at adougherty@mindenhills.ca or by phone at 705-286-1260 (ext. 506).
Any Person may attend the public meeting and/or make written or verbal representation either in support of or in opposition to the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment.

If a person or public body would otherwise have an ability to appeal the decision of the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills to the Ontario Land Tribunal but the person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the Township of Minden Hills before the by-law is passed, the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision.

If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting, or make written submissions to the Township of Minden Hills before the by-law is passed, the person or public body may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the Ontario Land Tribunal unless, in the opinion of the Tribunal, there are reasonable grounds to do so.

If You Wish to Be Notified of the decision of the Township of Minden Hills in respect to the proposed zoning by-law amendment, you must submit a written request to the Township of Minden Hills. For more information about this matter, including information about preserving your appeal rights, contact the undersigned at adougherty@mindenhills.ca

Accessibility: The Township of Minden Hills is committed to providing services as set out in the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005. If you have accessibility needs and require alternative formats or other accommodations, please contact the undersigned.

Privacy Disclosure: As one of the purposes of the Planning Act is to provide for planning processes that are open and accessible, all written submissions, documents, correspondence, e-mails or other communications (including your name and address) form part of the public record and may be disclosed/made available by the Township as deemed appropriate, including anyone requesting such information. Please note that by submitting any of this information, you are providing the Township with your consent to use and disclose this information as part of the planning process.

Amanda Dougherty
Manager of Planning
7 Milne Street, P.O. Box 359
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570 NOTICES

the arts council haliburton highlands

Annual General Meeting
Tuesday January 8, 2025
7 pm
Register on Eventbrite and join us on Zoom for a review of last year.
All are welcome to attend.
https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/agm-2025-tickets-1082646036439

520 THANK YOU

THANKS TO ST. JUDE AND THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS for favours received. May the sacred heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved, and preserved throughout the world now and forever. Sacred heart of Jesus, pray for us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude, help the hopeless, pray for us. Say this prayer 9 times a day for 9 days. This prayer has never failed, and your prayers will be answered. Publication must be promised. C.C.

400 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

County Life

A ***driver*** is required for the delivery of the County Life newspaper each Thursday. The route that is available is RR2 Minden . For more information contact David Zilstra by email David.Zilstra@gmail.com

Haliburton County Huskies

Home Game

Trenton Golden Hawks VS Haliburton County Huskies

Saturday, Dec. 21 - 4 p.m.

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Tuesday, Dec. 31
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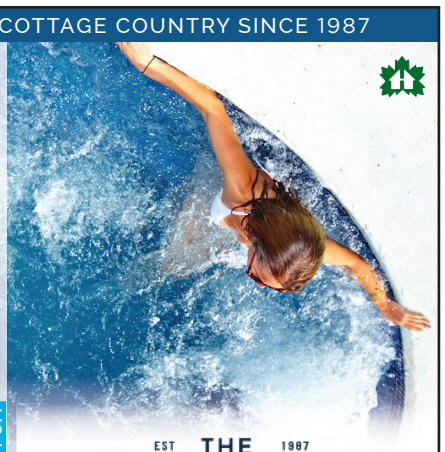
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LOOK INSIDE

Creative Santa

Gull Lake cottager Catherine Nutt creates her own Christmas magic

See page 13

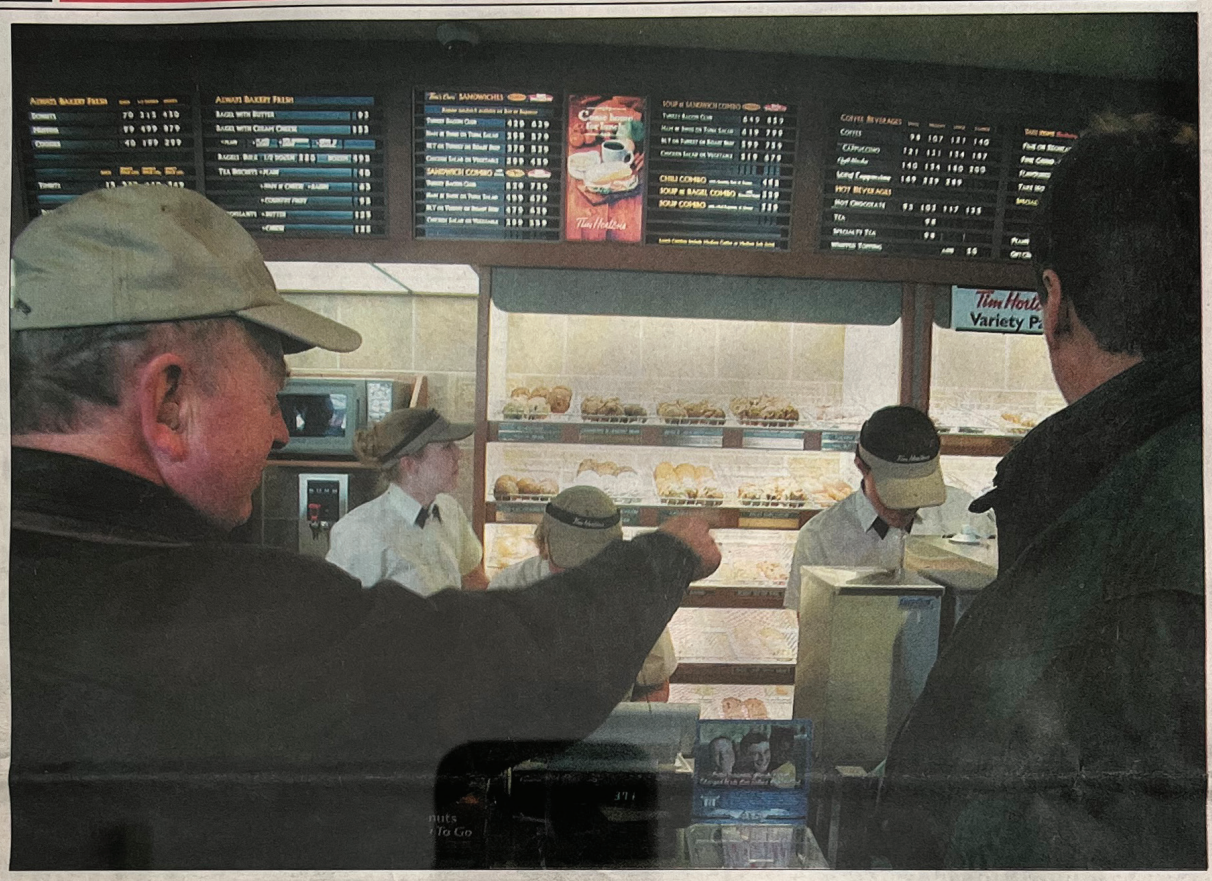
Christmas in concert

Archie Stouffer Elementary School students celebrate the season.

See page 12

In Quotes

"I feel like we're banging our heads against a concrete wall."
Eleanor Harrison, page 2



Matthew Wall/TIMES

Time for Tim Hortons

Tim Hortons and Pioneer Gas Station both opened for business on Thursday afternoon. The owner of Minden's new coffee shop, Nancy Bishop, said she has hired 30 people, 28 of them full-time. Pioneer has four employees on its payroll. Pioneer's District Manager Ray Angrove said he received 70 applications for the eight to 10 positions he will eventually fill. Both companies will be open all hours of the day.

Dysart's Bill Davis dons warden's chain of office

by JERRY GROZELLE
Times staff

Dysart Deputy-Reeve Bill Davis will serve as warden of Haliburton County for the next year.

Past Warden Ross Rigney nominated Davis at last Tuesday night's inaugural meeting. He noted that Davis holds the distinction of being the longest serving deputy-reeve in Dysart history. With the exception of one term when he did not run because he had taken a job with the Ministry of Health, Davis has been the deputy-reeve of Dysart since 1985.

"He is only the second deputy-reeve to hold the position of Warden of Haliburton County," Rigney said.

Dysart Reeve Murray Fearrey said "I've had the pleasure of working with Bill for longer than most marriages last these days," Fearrey quipped. "There are four things a man goes through in his life. He starts off believing in Santa Claus. Then he disbelieves in Santa Claus. Then he is Santa Claus and then he looks like Santa Claus. Comparing all that to Bill, this is the period in his life where he is going to be Santa Claus.

Bill Davis

"I've come to respect that Bill's interest is in the interest of people in general and in the interest of this county."

Haliburton County CAO Gary King called

see DAVIS *page 6*

Lagoon frozen in its tracks

by MARTHA PERKINS
Times staff

The first phase of a septic storage lagoon at the Pine Springs landfill site has been frozen in its tracks.

Algonquin Highlands council received a letter earlier this month saying that before the lagoon project can go ahead a change to the landfill site's Certificate of Approval is required.

"We've been told the [C of A]application won't take any longer than three months which means it will be six," a frustrated Reeve Eleanor Harrison, said.

The delay means that septic waste haulers in the municipality face another winter of not having any place to store septage until it can be disposed of in the spring. Property owners therefore have to hire haulers from outside the county who have

see LANDFILL *page 2*

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~ Douglas Walker,
Artistic Producer ~

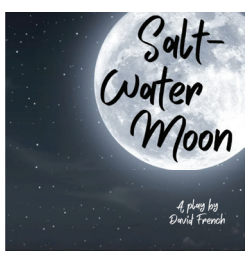
For our 25th Anniversary season the Highlands Summer Festival presents five glorious productions designed to rekindle your love for live theatre. Story-telling, to delight, entertain and fascinate, all five productions for only $175....it is almost like getting one show for free.

The summer season opens with the satirical but a little off-the-wall musical, ***Urinetown***. It all starts with the sixteenth letter of the alphabet, P. The letter which speaks for itself or, when spelled out, pee, is the central theme to this fast-paced musical. Urinetown is a metaphor for the over-arching intrusion of big corporations into all aspects of our lives as the plucky citizens fight back. With music and lyrics by Mark Hollmann, and book and lyrics by Greg Kotis, the cast makes its case against the legal system, capitalism, social irresponsibility, populism, bureaucracy, corporate mismanagement, and municipal politics with music, humour, and boycotts even as several love stories emerge from the mayhem.

Opening July 1st through to the 8th.

Outstanding musicianship and energetic staging that will leave you calling for more – ***The Fitzgeralds*** have been dazzling audiences for years. We are delighted to include The Fitzgeralds in this summer's program, which will feature their lightning-fast fiddling and some equally mesmerizing footwork.

Opens July 9th for 3 performances.



For our third show, we turn to the production which opened the Festival 25 years ago, the award-winning ***Salt-Water Moon***. We chose this quintessential Canadian play by David French to kick off the inaugural HSF season. Set in Newfoundland eight years after the end of the First World War, this is a touching love story with the conflicted young lovers over-lain by the memory of the horrors of the war, changing roles for women in society and technological advances. The story of Salt-Water Moon resonates as strongly today as it did when we first presented it on our stage in the summer of 2000.

Opening July 15th running to the 22nd.

Accusations, mistaken identities, and romances run wild in this traditional, laugh-out-loud farce, ***Drinking Habits***. Two nuns at the Sisters of Perpetual Sewing have been secretly making wine to keep the convent's doors open, but Paul and Sally, reporters and former fiancées, are hot on their trail. They go undercover as a nun and priest, but their presence, combined with the addition of a new nun, spurs paranoia throughout the convent that spies have been sent from Rome to shut them down. Drinking Habits, by Tom Smith: wine and secrets are inevitably spilled as everyone tries to preserve the convent and reconnect with lost loves. (This production contains mature themes. Recommended for ages 13 and up. There is no official rating system for live theatre. We encourage you to use your judgment based on your child's age and maturity level.)

Opening July 27th to August 1st.

Feeling Bublé: "*Jay was amazing!! What a wonderful performance! He has such a wonderful voice and he had Michael Buble's moves down to a T.*" Be a part of this feel-good performance of music featuring Michael Bublé's greatest hits performed by Jay Davis and his world-class jazz band.

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